The Kings Maiesties Answer

to the *Petition* of the House of Commons in Parliament sent on Saturday last, *Jan.* 18. 1641.

With Mr. *Speakers* Letter sent to all the Corporations in *England*, And the like also to all the Justices of Peace in the severall Counties of *ENGLAND*.

Drawne up by Order of the House of Commons, for the publishing of the Declaration of the House, concerning their five Members formerly accused of Treason.

And to commend the taking of the Protestation throughout the Kingdome, *January* 29. 1641.

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Charles I

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The Kings Maieſties

Anſwer to the *Petition* of the Houſe of Commons, ſent on Saturday laſt, the 29. of this inſtant *Ianuary*, 1642.

HIs Majeſty having ſeriouſly conſidered of the Petition preſented to him from the Houſe of Commons, on Wedneſday the ſixe, and twentieth of this moneth, returns this anſwer.

That he was in good hope his gracious Meſſage, the twentieth of this moneth, to both Houſes would have produced ſome ſuch overture which, by offering what is fit on their parts to doe, and what is proper for his Majeſty to grant, might beget a mutuall confidence in each other.

Concerning the Tower of *London*, his Majeſty did not expect, that having preferred a perſon of a knowne fortune, and an unqueſtionable reputation to that truſt, he ſhould be preſſed to remove him without any particular charge objected againſt him, and therefore returnes this anſwer, That if upon due examination any particulars ſhall be preſented to his Majeſty, whereby it may appeare that his Majeſty

was miſtaken in his opinion of the Gentleman, and that he is unfit for the truſt committed to him, his Majeſty will make no ſcruple of diſcharging him, but otherwiſe his Majeſty is obliged in juſtice to himſelfe, to preſerve hii owne worke, leſt his favour and good opinion may prove a diſadvantage and miſfortune to his ſervants without any other accuſation, of which his Majeſty doubts not this Houſe of Commons will be ſo tender, (as of all buſineſſe wherein his Majeſties honour is ſo much concerned) that if they find no materiall exceptions againſt his perſon, they will rather endeauour to ſatisfie and reforme the feares of other men then (by complying with them) preſſe his Majeſty to any reſolution which may ſeeme ſo much to reflect upon his honour and juſtice.

For the Forts and Caſtles of the Kingdome his Majeſty is reſolved that they ſhall alwaies be in ſuch hands (and onely in ſuch) as the Parliament may ſafely confide it: But the nomination of any perſon to thoſe places, being ſo principall and inſeperable a flowre of his Crowne, veſted in him and derived to him from his Anceſtors by the Fundamentall Laws of the Kingdome he will reſerve to himſelfe; In beſtowing whereof, as his Majeſty will take care that no corrupt or ſiniſter counſes ſhall prevaile with him, ſo he is willing to declare that he ſhall not be induced to expreſſe that favour ſo ſoone to any perſon as to thoſe whoſe good demeanor ſhall be eminent to him or his Parliament: And if he now hath or ſhall at any time by miſinformation conferre ſuch a truſt upon an undeſerving perſon he is and alwaies will be

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ready to leave him to the wiſedome and juſtice of his Parliament.

For the *Militia* of the Kingdome (which by the Law is ſubject to no command but of his Majeſty, and of authority lawfully derived from him) when any particular courſe for ordering the ſame (which his Majeſty holds very neceſſary for the peace and ſecurity of his Kingdome) ſhall be conſidered and digeſted by his Parliament, and propoſed to his Majeſty, his Majeſty will returne ſuch an anſwer, as ſhall be agreeable to his honour and the ſafety of his people, his Majeſty being reſolved only to deny thoſe things, the granting whereof would alter the fundamentall Laws, and endanger the very foundation vpon which the publike happineſſe and welfare of his people is founded and conſtituted, and would nouriſh a greater and more diſtructive jealouſie betweene the Crowne and the Subjects, then any of theſe which would ſeeme to be taken away by ſuch a ſatisfaction: and his Majeſty doth not doubt that his having granted more then ever King hath granted will ever perſwade his Houſe of Commons to aske more then ever Subjects have asked, and if they ſhal acquaint his Majeſty with the particular grounds of their doubts and feares, he will very willingly apply remedies proportionall to thoſe feares, for his Majeſty cals God to witneſſe that the preſervation of the publike peace, and the Laws and liberties of the Subjects, ſhall always be his Majeſties care and induſtry as of his life and the lives of his deareſt Children; and therefore his Majeſty doth conjure the Houſe of Commons by all the Acts of Iuſtice and

favour they have received from him this Parliament by their hopes of future happineſſe in his Majeſty, and in one anothers love of Religion and the peace of this Kingdome (in which that of *Ireland* cannot be forgotten) that they will not be tranſported with jealouſies and apprehenſions of poſſible dangers, to put themſelves and his Majeſty into reall and preſent inconveniencies, but that they will ſpeedily purſue the way, propoſed by his Majeſties former meſſage which in humane reaſon is the onely way to compoſe the diſtractions of the Kingdome, and with Gods bleſſing will reſtore a great meaſure of felicity to King and People.

A Copie of a Letter

ſent by Mr. *Speaker* to all the Corporations in *England*, &c.

The Endorcement was thus;

TO *A. B.* Major of *C.* and to *D. E.* Recorder, and to all his Majeſties Juſtices of Peace of the ſaid Towne; And ſo the like to the Juſtices of the ſeverall Counties.

GENTLEMEN,

IT is now ſome Moneths ſince, that the Proteſtation taken by the Lords and Houſe of Commons was ſent downe into the Country, with an expectation tha

it ſhould be generally taken throughout the Kingdome for a Teſtimony of their good concurrence with the Parliament, But through the Remiſſeneſſe of ſome of thoſe who had the care of recommending it to others,very many there be that have not hitherto taken it.

Now the Houſe of Commons having diſcovered many dangerous deſignes plotted againſt the Parliament, eſpecially of the 4th. of this inſtant *January*, which had it taken effect would have ſtrucken not onely at the Priviledges but the very beeing of Parliaments, as will more appeare by the Declaration herewith ſent unto you, which the Houſe deſires you to publiſh in your Corporation, and the Liberties and parts thereof(as the ſame is alſo to be publiſhed by the Juſtices of the ſeverall Shires) have thought fit once againe to recommend the taking of this Proteſtation.

And have therefore commanded mee in their Names,to deſire you the Major, and Juſtices of the Peace of the ſaid Corporation, to meet together in one place, as ſoone as poſſibly you may; and there to take the Proteſtation your ſelves; and there alſo calling the Miniſters of the ſeverall Pariſhes within your ſayd Corporations, and the Conſtables, Churchwardens, and Overſeers of the Poore, and all other the Inhabitants of the ſame Corporation, both Houſe-holders,and others, being of 18. yeares of Age, or upwards, to tender unto them the ſayd Proteſtation, to be taken in your preſence, and to take the names both of thoſe that doe take, and doe refuſe to take the ſame Proteſtation, and to make

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returne thereof to the Burgeſſes, ſerving for the ſaid Corporation, before the 12.th of March next, wherein the Houſe deſires your greateſt care, and diligence, as a matter very much importing the good both of the King, and Kingdome, which being all I have in Command, and I reſt.

Dat. 29. *January*, 1641.

Your very loving friend,
William Lenthall.

FINIS.